

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claim 2 has been cancelled. Thus, Claims 1 and 3-18 remain for examination.

Rejection Under Section 112

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph as being indefinite. The examiner points to certain objections with regard to Claim 1, line 9 and Claim 8, line 7.

Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 8 in order to correct the basis for the objections set forth by the examiner. Further, applicant has reviewed and amended additional portions of the claim to make the recitations more clear. It is submitted that all of applicant's claims fully comply with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-4 and 6-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Yonemitsu (6,856,962). Further, Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Van Horne (6,625,645).

The examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended Claim 1 in order to incorporate therein the limitations of Claim 2 and has additionally amended Claim 1 so that Claim 1 now recites:

1. A schedule information system comprising:

schedule data storage means in which users' schedule data are stored;

information service means, including an internet-based search engine, for providing users with first related information;

related service search means that searches the information service means for information that relates to the schedule data stored in the schedule data storage means and provides the information as the first related information; and

information service data storage means for storing second related information summarizing the first related information provided by the information service means;

wherein the related service search means includes means which, in response to users' instructions to search related services or to

consult schedule data, acquires the first related information from information service means and outputs the first related information to the users; and

wherein the related service search means includes a means for searching the information service data storage means in response to users' instructions or control; and means for outputting to the users, along with the schedule data said first and second related information;

said first and second related information being other than schedule data of another user.

As may be seen from the above amendment, the information service means is recited to include an internet-based search engine which provides the user with first related information. Information data storage means is also provided for storing second related information which is a summary of the first related information. A response to a user instruction, for example, the related service search means includes a means for searching the information service data means and means for outputting to the user along with the schedule data the first and second related information. Moreover, Claim 1 recites that the first and second related information are other than the scheduled data of another user.

The above discussed limitations clearly differentiate applicant's invention from the primary Yonemitsu reference. Yonemitsu is directed toward scheduling appointments between different users and, as may readily be seen from examining Figures 5-8, a particular user's schedule may be modified with a meeting date proposed by a second user. In contrast, applicant's claims utilize an internet-based search engine to search for related information (first related information) which is related to the schedule data but which is not scheduled data of another user.

The enumerated limitations of applicant's Claim 1 clearly differentiate applicant's invention from the primary Yonemitsu reference, and thus claim 1 is patentable thereover.

In order for a reference to be an anticipatory reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must disclose each and every claimed limitation. This is certainly not the case here and thus the § 102 rejection must be withdrawn.

Claims 3-18 are all dependent, directly or indirectly, upon independent Claim 1 and are thus deemed patentable at least for the same reasons indicated above with regard to Claim 1 from which they claims depend.

The § 103 rejection as to Claim 5 is deemed to be overcome in as much as the primary reference fails to disclose the above discussed limitations of applicant's independent Claim 1 and these deficiencies are not supplied by the secondary reference of Van Horne. As such, the Patent and Trademark Office has not made out a primary case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Conclusions

It is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and early indication of same is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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